

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others

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June 2009

PASTOR'S CORNER GOD HAS A PLAN . . . WE'RE IT!!!

This was the theme for the 2009 Synod Assembly held last month. The synod was putting forth their goals and plans for the coming year - many of which are very exciting. We were all excited about this plan that God has for our synod. How *is* God going to pull off all of these exciting ministry plans? As Bishop Burkat continued to put forth the various challenges, she told us, "God has a plan . . . we're it!"

That is how God has always worked. He had a plan to lead the Israelites out of slavery and into the promised land. How did he accomplish that plan? Through people like Moses and the chosen 70 of the council. When the flood was coming, how did God accomplish his plan? He went to Noah to get the job done.

God DOES have a plan for us here at St. Peter's. We are called to preach, teach, baptize and provide the sacraments. We have trained many seminarians to be faithful pastors through our Intern program. Our Sunday School, Catechism and Vacation Bible School programs help instruct our children in the Christian faith. We have given food, clothing, blood, gas, electric, housing, sponsorships, visits, love and compassion to thousands of people who have come to us over the past 257 years. God has a plan for us to continue these ministries and expand them in the future.

God has a plan . . . we're it. In the next few months we will be updating our Time & Talent database to know what talents and gifts live among our members. God's plan for us *will* be accomplished. HOW? Through you and me. God uses US to get his plans completed. Let's enjoy the fact that we have been chosen for such an honor. After all - God had a plan to save us from our sinfulness. Who did he use to accomplish this? His own Son. We should be willing to give as much back.

Faithfully Yours,

The Rev. R. Bruce Todd

FROM THE VICAR...



What's Next?

I am even asking myself the same question! My summer plans to date include supply preaching at area congregations, serving as a chaplain at Bear Creek Camp and visiting my son in Florida. I am also being considered for a part-time interim Youth Leader at another congregation in our synod. In my spare time I will complete and submit my final paperwork to the national church for consideration to enter the call process, hopefully in the fall. All this, of course, is in God's hands.

In September I will finish my coursework at the seminary (three classes). Technically I graduate in December, after five and a half years! After that...no idea! Depending on how my candidacy process continues will influence how quickly I become available for a call. I pray my candidacy process will be completed late summer/early fall.

In the meantime, keep me in your prayers along with the Church as it calls leaders to rostered positions in the Church. The process seems overwhelming, but with God leading the ripples of distress are made even. I will keep you informed as to my progress.

Thank you for your prayers and support. I enjoyed my tenure with you at St. Peter's.

Contact Information:

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717.676.3954

**DON'T MISS
VICAR JIM GOODYEAR'S
FAREWELL DINNER
SATURDAY, MAY 30**

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE MUHLENBERG CHAPEL NOW

AT&T Phone Cards for Our Soldiers



AT&T phone cards are being collected during the month of June for our soldiers in the Middle East. Help our soldiers stay in touch with their loved ones and help our building program by purchasing the phone cards through St. Peter's scrip program.

When placing the scrip order, please write on the form that the AT&T cards are for our soldiers. Then, instead of you receiving the cards, they will go right to Social Ministry to be mailed overseas.

Thank you for your continuing support in sharing the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee (Ellen Daneke, Chair; Carol Dietch-Long, and Carolyn Hanel) is examining all the ways St. Peter's communicates with the congregation. For the next several months we will have a survey in each issue of the Newsletter on a different means of communication to gather your thoughts and comments in an effort to improve our communications efforts. Please take a few minutes to

complete this survey on the Newsletter and return to the special box in the Muhlenburg Chapel, or email it to: cbhanel@yahoo.com. Thanks

COUNCIL CORNER

Council last met on May 12 and several items of importance to our St. Peter's family were discussed. In addition to the monthly committee reports, it was decided to conduct another "Pony Express" pledge campaign this year! We had great success when we ran it in the past, and expect the same or better results this time. As the day for the campaign to start approaches, we will post more information in the bulletin and newsletter.



Of great importance, of course, is the budget and our mortgage commitment. Toward that end, our Treasurer, Vicky Hyczko, has prepared the summary of giving to date, and is providing a few explanatory notes as well. In the next few weeks, you will hear more about our Dollar a Day campaign as that small addition is VERY important to the entire mortgage effort.

An exciting event attended by Ellen Daneke, Kelly Graham, John Gordon and John Lewis (along with Pastor Todd), was the 2009 Synod Assembly held in Telford, PA on May 8 and 9. Some 600 delegates and guests were in attendance to learn of new initiatives and to debate some important topics. One of the most significant initiatives is a project known as FACE. Simply stated, it refers to Faith Formation, Faith in Action, Connecting and Communicating and Equipping and Developing. The phrase, "God Has a Plan...And We are It!" will be the watchword for all of us as we work toward accomplishing the larger Synod mission and, of course, our mission to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others. As the FACE project develops, Council will be sharing ways in which all of us can participate

OF SPECIAL INTEREST...

Whitemarsh Township will dedicate the newest park on Harts Lane as Donald Koontz Park Wednesday, May 27, at 6:00 PM at the park (on Harts Lane, just off of Ridge Pike. Don was a long time member of the St. Peter's congregation before moving to New Jersey. As some of the "older" members will recall, Don was the first Director of Parks and Recreation for Whitemarsh Township. What you may not know is that Don was actually the first full-time Director of Parks and Recreation for a Township in Pennsylvania. After leaving Whitemarsh, Don worked for many years with the Montgomery County Parks Department. Join us on May 27 to celebrate Don's important contributions to our community and our quality of life.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Last month's Stewardship Committee meeting was an exciting one, indeed! In addition to welcoming several new members, discussion focused on ways we might amplify our mission. The Committee mission remains: *The goal of stewardship ministry is to help god's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.*

Focus on New Members: This month we focus on Timothy and Karmen Concannon and their children Wyatt who is one, and Elsa who is five. Tim works for Paychex, and is a musician who plays guitar and has a beautiful voice. He is a member of two bands, the Ball Pointed Pens and the 309's. He sings at weddings and house parties and is also a song writer. Karmen enjoys reading, gardening and exercise; she is a realtor at Prudential, Fox and Roach. Elsa will be starting kindergarten in the fall and Wyatt enjoys being one and staying at home! We welcome the Concannons into our St. Peter's family!

The Committee is working on our current database for Time and Talent. We want to make certain that anyone who wishes to volunteer for any effort at St. Peter's does not go unrecognized. Existing committee chairs are being provided with the listing of those interested in a special project or committee for their follow through. If you want To make sure you are included in a specific area of interest, you are encouraged to call the church office!



Worship and Music Committee

If you are interested in sharing your musical talent at a service this summer, please be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet which will be posted in June. We will be expanding the music program to include monthly musical events at the 8:30 service starting in September. A sign up will be posted toward the end of the summer. We are also recruiting for additional members for the handbell choir. Please contact Al Kamerle if you are interested in learning more about this very special musical opportunity. As always, new choir members are always welcome to join and make a "joyful noise!"



A REPORT FROM THE TREASURER...

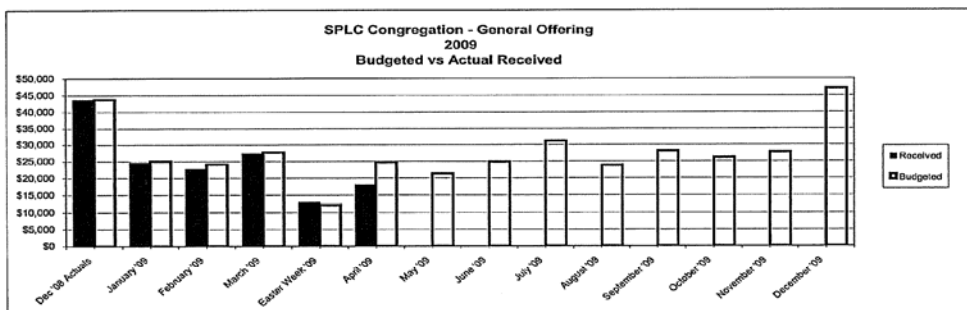
The General Offering & Mortgage Giving have been disappointing for April 2009. Moreover, they continue to be distressingly low as the month of May unfolds.

- While Easter week was slightly above the budget (\$801), the remainder of April was very weak. Year-to-date April's General Offering was **\$7,929 behind** the budget.
- The Mortgage Giving also lagged, and is becoming the norm, rather than the exception. On a rolling 12 month basis (as graphically depicted), Mortgage Giving was **\$20,956 below** the required amount necessary to meet our mortgage obligations. Of that shortfall, 19% or \$10,111 occurred in the first 4 months of this year; April contributing to \$4,560 (45% of the 4 months' shortfall).

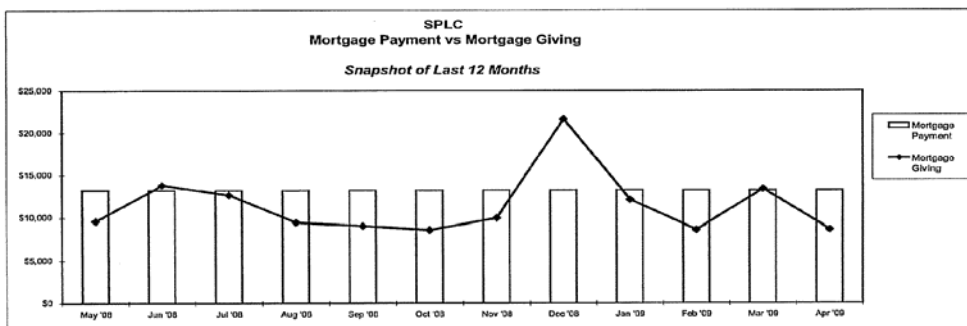
The "Dollar a Day" Campaign was introduced to the congregation as a means of bridging the gap between the Mortgage Giving and the mortgage obligations. The congregation rose to the challenge in March raising \$1,258. In April, only 18 members contributed to the campaign, totaling \$964.50. To those who have contributed and continue to contribute, we thank you! These contributors represent only 4% of the total membership of St Peter's.

Did you know that **God has a plan?** Guess what? **We are it!** So what does that mean in the context of our obligation as a congregation? It goes back to how we can accomplish our Mission, which is "to share the Life, Love & Joy of Jesus Christ with others". We certainly cannot do this without the basic infrastructure in tact (staff, building and other resources). We need to demonstrate solidarity and commitment to what we, as a congregation, have started.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Monthly Offering and Building/Mortgage Funds At A Glance



Year-to-Date Budgeted: \$113,384 33.06% Received Year-to-Date vs Budget: (\$7,929) Ahead / (Behind)
 Year-to-Date Actuals: \$105,455 30.74% -6.99%



Average Monthly Giving \$11,447 Total Payments - Last 12 Months \$158,316
 Monthly Mortgage \$13,193 Total Donations - Last 12 Months \$137,360
 Average Over/(Under) (\$1,746) Last 12 Months - Over/(Under) (\$20,956)

SUNDAY NEWS AND EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

The Sunday School Picnic is scheduled for June 7th after the 10:00 worship service.

Summer Sunday School

We are in need of teachers for Sunday school in July and August. If you can teach one Sunday during these months, please contact Linda Wargo at 215-402-9156 or l.wargo@comcast.net.

Discovery Canyon Vacation Bible School

VBS is scheduled July 6-10th from 9:00 am - 11:45 am. Registration forms are available in the Church Office.

If you are available to help during VBS, please contact Linda Wargo at 215-402-9156 or l.wargo@comcast.net.

VBS Supplies

We are looking for the following household and craft items for this year's crafts. I

Glue	Pipe cleaners
Markers	Paper towel and toilet paper tubes
Crayons	½ gallon cardboard juice and milk cartons
Felt-all colors	Brown paper shopping bags
Small to medium smooth rocks	Colored tissue paper
Pebbles	Pinecones
Seashells-all shapes and sizes	Sand- all colors
Nuts, bolts, beads & buttons	Wire hangers
Pinecones	

Items may be placed in the VBS bin outside the church office.

Thank you!

ATTENTION SPY:

Vacation Bible School is looking for youth volunteers.

Yes, you can bring a friend.

Monday 6th - Friday 10th

9-11:45





First EVER Boar's Head Summer Outing

This invitation goes out to the Choir, the Orchestra, the Kings, the Pipers, the Crew, the parking lot guys... Let's get together and celebrate the show!

Event Date: Sunday June 28th - Ply Mar Swim Club No Rain Date

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Cost Per Person \$3.00 Club Entrance

Boar's Head will supply Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Paper Products

We can joyfully divide - Sodas, Salads and Desserts

We have the picnic grove reserved for the afternoon. Ply Mar has Tennis, 3 pools, shuffleboard and beautiful facilities (and memberships are available for 2010).

RSVP by June 15 via email, at church on the sign up board in the Muhlenberg chapel, or leave a message at my house to let me know what you'll bring. 610-941-6636
Jan Gera needs a head count for the club so please RSVP.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE RECEIVED BY SILVER SPRINGS

Many, many thank yous to the Social Ministry Committee and all of our friends at St. Peter's Lafayette Hill for your generous April 29, 2009 gift of \$1,012.49 to Silver Springs - Martin Luther School! Thank you for reaching out in such a fun way through St. Peter's Change for Change Program.

Children do not understand - nor should they - the word "recession." What they DO know is that "summer camp" means fun and great childhood memories. Last year, thanks to you, one of our youngsters enjoyed a week of basketball camp and was awarded the coveted "Most Valuable Player" award! Thanks also to you, another child with a strong creative spirit enjoyed an extra week of ceramic classes. And (again thanks to you!) a third child was able to attend a day camp for special needs children and experience fun, safe, social interactions with his peers.

The good news is that we are celebrating 150 years of service to children and families. For this we thank you and the countless others who, throughout these 150 years, have partnered with us to ensure that we are able to provide a place of healing.

Blessings to you!

Sincerely,
Joan Plump, J.D., Development Officer
Silver Springs - Martin Luther School



YOUNG FAMILY GROUP NEWS.



THANK YOU FROM LAUREL HOUSE: The staff of Laurel House extends their thanks to St. Peter's for remembering the moms in-need during Mother's Day. Laurel House is very grateful for our ongoing support. Thank you to everyone who baked muffins for the bake sale. Big hugs to everyone in the congregation for your generous donations. God bless you all!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL! June 28th after 10:00AM service is our Start of Summer Ice Cream Social. Please come and celebrate the start of summer with us. Bring any ideas and suggestions for Young Family Group activities for the 2009/2010 season. See you there!



SAVE THIS DATE: August 9th before/after both services. Young Family Group and SPY will be hosting an Alex's Lemonade stand. More information to come about joining us to help fight childhood cancer, one cup at a time!

Annual Rummage Sale

Our annual sale will be in September 11th & 12th. During the month of August you can bring your treasures to the church. We have an area set aside in the Martin Luther room where you can place the items. Please keep in mind though, that if you don't want it because it is so worn and beat up, then no one else wants it either.



**What is SPY?
St. Peter's Youth**

SPY meets a few times a month. We always have food, always play a game and you can always bring a friend.

We take over Sunday service on Youth Sunday, participate in the Good Friday Crucifixion Drama, host parties at Martin Luther Silver Springs School and have Kid-Sitting nights in the nursery school. Questions, comments & ideas welcomed.

It's so easy to join SPY. Just come to any event and sign up. Look for the Summer Spy Schedule in this Newsletter.

Danielle O'Brien, Youth Director
DanielleOrganizes@msn.com

CHANGES IN OUR CONGREGATION

Baptisms

May 3rd

Parents: Edward & Megan Phillips
Sarah Elizabeth Phillips
Kylie Erin Phillips
Colin Edward Phillips

May 17th

Parents: Scott M. & Meredith (Hughes) Falatek
Avery Leigh Falatek

Parents: Kevin M. Connolly & Laura L. (Skutches) Connolly
Felicia Lynne Connolly

May 24th

Parent: Shannon L. Terry
Skylar M. Terry

Transfer:

Derek Halverson, Elisabeth Bendo, Zoe Halverson
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Gaithersburg, MD 2087

Graduates:

Monica Trainer/ June Graduate from PW High School. Now attending Bloomsberg University

Here's to a happy and safe summer...and many blessings to our graduates!



Thank You Note:

My wife & I thank everyone at St. Peter's who cheered and encouraged us with their cards, phone calls, visits & letters, following my accident. Special thanks to Pastor Todd & Vicar Jim for their visits, and calls which we greatly appreciated. We look forward to returning to St. Peter's and participating again with all of you.

John and Mary Wood

ST. PETER'S YOUTH – ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO



SPY TIME

We will meet in the SPY room for fun, food & fellowship.

Sunday May 3rd, 11-1 PM

SPY Music

Calling all musicians! Come play music with us every Tuesday night. Enter through the kitchen doors. Meet in the SPY room.

Tuesdays 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th, 8-9 pm

Kid-Sitting Fundraiser & Pizza Party

Bring a friend, a pizza, a craft idea or a game idea. We'll entertain the little ones & then watch a movie

Friday May 22nd, 5-9 pm

Silver Springs Party for the Children

We'll meet in the nursery school to prepare the crafts and pack for the party.

Sunday May 24th, 1-4 pm

SPY TIME

Referee games for the Sunday School picnic. Got any good game ideas?

Sunday June 7th, 11 am



SPY Music

Calling all musicians! Come play music with us every Tuesday night. Meet us in the SPY room.

Tuesdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, 8-9 pm

SPY Music

We will be playing music during service. Please bring in a snack for coffee hour.

Sunday June 21st, 10 am



SPY TIME

Today we are going to plan the calendar, have lunch & play ping pong.

Sunday June 7th, 11-2

SPY Music

Come play music with us every Tuesday night. Meet us in the SPY room.

Tuesdays 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th, 8-9 pm

Renaissance Faire Summer Youth Day - FREE

Come see the Human Chess game and Ultimate Jousting in this 16th century village of Merrie Olde England. **Thursday July 30th 8-4 9m**

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SURVEY #1

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey on the Newsletter and return to the special box in the Muhlenberg Chapel, or email it to: cbhanel@yahoo.com. **Thank you for your time and attention.**

1. Demographics

a. How long have you been a member of St. Peter's?

- 0 – 5 years
- 6 – 10 years
- 11 – 15 years
- 16 years or more

b. Please indicate the category that most closely describes your membership.

- Teen
- Family
- Single Parent
- Couple
- Individual

2. Frequency

The Newsletter is currently issued once a month, with a joint edition for July and August. Please indicate the option you prefer (please only check one option).

- Keep monthly schedule
- Go to a quarterly schedule (e.g., March, June, September and December)
- Go to a bi-monthly schedule (e.g., January, March, May, July, September, November)

3. Content

Does the Newsletter provide information of value to you as a member of the St. Peter's congregation? Please indicate any of the following options which you would like to see.

- News of other Lutheran congregations
- Synod news
- News of the national church
- Community announcements
- Want ads (for congregation members only)
- List birthdays separately, and confine the calendar to events and meeting announcements.

4. Options

What other ways could/should we provide printed information; please check all that apply.

- Print weekly announcements for pick up at church, in addition to what is included in the bulletin.
- Other (please specify)

5. Other Comments: Please feel free to provide any other comments and suggestions regarding the Newsletter.

